

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

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1. (Original) A treatment method for a wooden material, comprising steps of subjecting the wooden material to a bleaching treatment, and subjecting the wooden material to an acetylating treatment.

2. (Original) A treatment method for a wooden material according to claim 1, wherein the acetylating treatment is carried out after the bleaching treatment.

3. (Original) A treatment method for a wooden material according to claim 2, wherein the wooden material is washed and is dried between the bleaching treatment and the acetylating treatment.

4. (Original) A treatment method for a wooden material according to claim 1, wherein bleaching solution for the bleaching treatment is selected from a hydrogen peroxide solution, a solution including chlorite, and a solution including hypochlorite, all of which are pH adjusted to 9 to 12.

5. (Original) A treatment method for a wooden material according to claim 1, wherein the degree of acetylation of the wooden material subjected to the acetylating treatment is in the range of 1 to 25% by weight gain in the wooden material.

6. (Original) A treatment method for a wooden material according to claim 3, wherein the wooden material is washed and is dried until the moisture content in the wooden material is 13% by weight or less, relative to the total weight of the wooden material.

7. (Original) A treatment method for a wooden material according to claim 1, wherein the bleaching treatment is carried out by immersing the wooden material into a bleaching solution and the acetylating treatment is carried out until the degree of the acetylation becomes 5% or more by weight gain.

8. (Original) A treatment method for a wooden material, comprising steps of subjecting the wooden material to a bleaching treatment, and subjecting the wooden material to a

substituting treatment in which a phenol hydroxyl group included in the wooden material is substituted with another group.

9. (Currently amended) A treatment method for a wooden material according to claim 8, wherein the step of subjecting the wooden material to the substituting treatment is an acetylating treatment, an oligoesterification treatment, an etherification treatment, or a ~~formalification~~ treatment with formaldehyde.

10. (New) A treatment method for a wooden article according to claim 8, wherein the step of subjecting the wooden material to the substituting treatment is an oligoesterification treatment.

11. (New) A treatment method for a wooden article according to claim 8, wherein the step of subjecting the wooden material to the substituting treatment is an etherification treatment.

12. (New) A treatment method for a wooden article according to claim 8, wherein the step of subjecting the wooden material to the substituting treatment is a treatment with formaldehyde.

13. (New) A treatment method for a wooden material according to claim 3, wherein a bleaching solution for the bleaching treatment is selected from a hydrogen peroxide solution, a solution including chlorite, and a solution including hypochlorite, all of which are pH 9 to 12.

14. (New) A treatment method for a wooden material according to claim 13, wherein the degree of acetylating of the wooden material subjected to the acetylating treatment is in the range of 1 to 25% by weight gain in the wooden material.

15. (New) A treatment method for a wooden material according to claim 14, wherein the bleaching treatment is carried out by immersing the wooden material into a bleaching solution and the acetylation treatment is carried out until the degree of the acetylation becomes 5% or more by weight gain.